

INCOMING GUIDE

BONN



IAESTE

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE EXCHANGE
OF STUDENTS FOR TECHNICAL EXPERIENCE

INCOMING GUIDE

Congratulations! We are pleased to know that you have chosen Bonn for your internship, and we look forward to guiding you through these next important steps so that you arrive safely and well prepared for this new adventure that is about to begin.

This guide is there to help you prepare for the upcoming months in Bonn.

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1. What to do before you leave

Join the Facebook Groups

The official IAESTE and your local committee Facebook pages and groups are great places for students to find information and to get to know each other such as:

- Questions and Answers
- Events
- Connect with other (international) students/interns

2. Leaving checklist

What to bring with you

Make sure you bring the following items with you:

- valid passport or identification document (ID)
- credit cards (if applicable)
- driver's license or international driver's license
- valid student ID
- electrical equipment you may need like an adapter
- small backpack/bag for daytrips
- a bilingual dictionary
- ...

While being abroad and exploring a new culture many wonderful experiences will take place. However, as experience shows, unexpected issues might also arise and to hedge those risks an insurance could be a life-saver. There are various types of insurance offered nowadays on the market. For a useful overview over insurances in Germany you can check [here](#).

3. Arrival in Bonn

City Registration

All inhabitants over 16 years of age are required to register in Bonn with the Registration Office of their district within one week of their arrival. Therefore you need to make an appointment with the Registration Office (Einwohnermeldeamt). General information on registration in Germany can be found [here](#). For detailed information on your registration in Bonn and the required documents you can check [this website of the city of Bonn](#).

Additionally, citizens of non-EU countries need a residence title (Aufenthaltserlaubnis) for stays exceeding 3 months if not exempted by a special agreement. The application is dealt with at [the Immigration Office Bonn \(Ausländeramt\)](#).

Bank account

Often you are required to prove your financial means, especially if you are staying for a long period in the country. One of the best ways to demonstrate financial stability and facilitate your stay is to open a German bank account. If you are interested in opening a German bank account you can find [more information here](#).

In general you can use most of your foreign bank cards for paying here in Germany as well. The payment from a foreign bank might cause some extra fees though. Some smaller shops might not accept your credit card and ask for a payment by Debit card instead. It becomes more and more common to pay by card in Germany which means that it might not always be necessary for you to withdraw cash. However, there are also some places which still only accept cash.

Useful websites for more information

<https://www.iamexpat.de/>

<https://www.study-in-germany.de/en/>

Getting to the City Center (Central Station) from the airport

By taxi

You can take a taxi from the airport to the city center (Bonn Hauptbahnhof).

By bus

To reach the city center you can take bus number SB60, and get off at Bonn Central Station. Please consult [the SWB website](#) for information regarding schedules.

By train

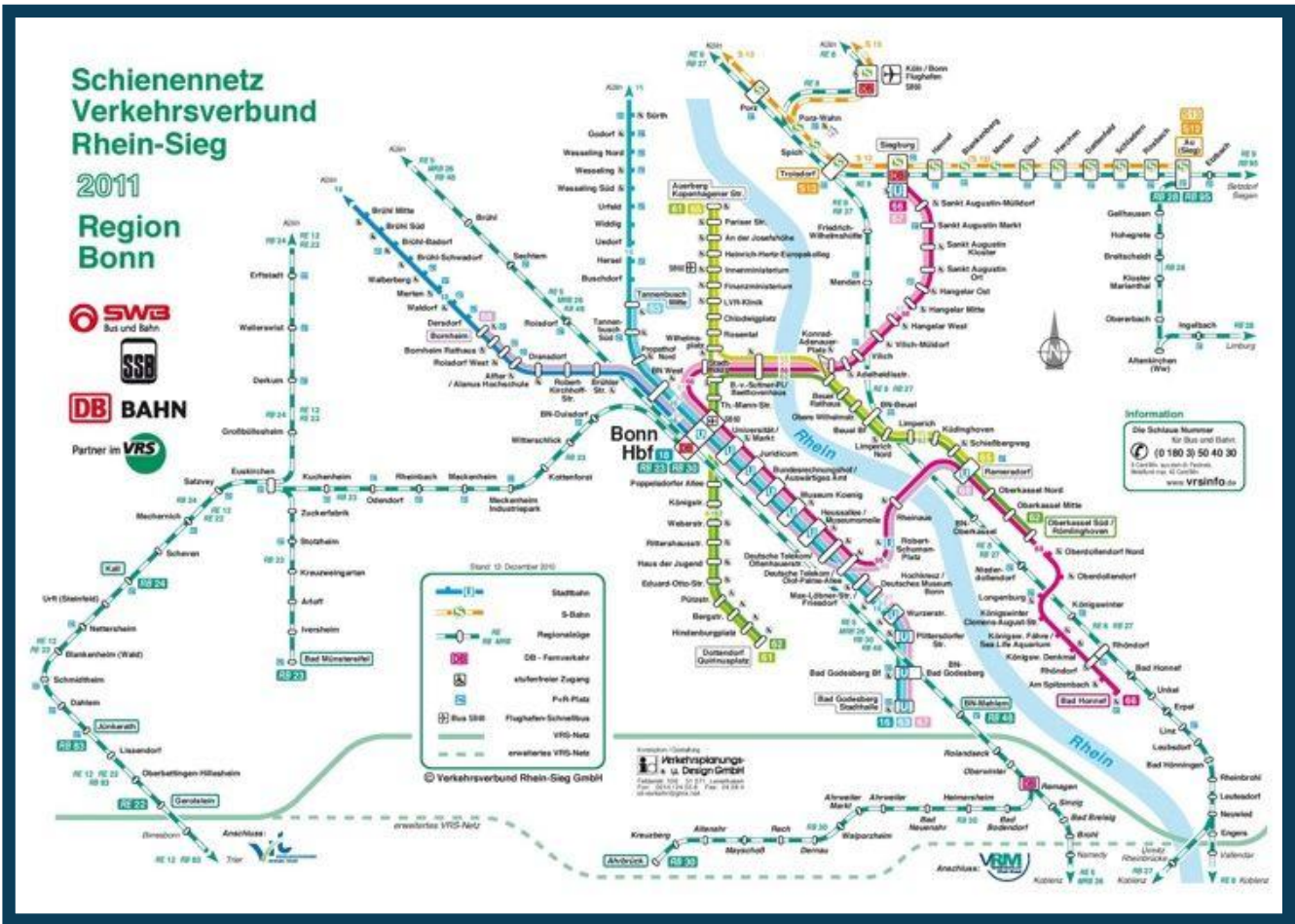
There's no train going directly from Cologne-Bonn airport to Bonn. You can either take a train to Beuel Bahnhof and reach the city center from there via tram (15 minutes) or take a train to Cologne Central Station and change to another regional train to Bonn (25 minutes).

NEED HELP?

Contact us if you would like to be picked up from the airport! A member of our local committee will meet you there!

For **getting back to the airport** you can use the same means of transportation. For further information, you can also consult the official [website of Cologne-Bonn Airport](#).

Here a map of the public transportation system (subway, train and tramway) in the city of Bonn:



Tickets for public transport

In general tickets for single rides can be bought at machines around the train & bus stations or on the tram/bus. If you need to travel regularly we advise to buy a weekly or monthly tickets. We can have a look at those together depending on your needs.

Getting a bike

Since Bonn is rather small and flat you can get almost anywhere by bike. One option is to buy a cheap bike on ebay but if you are only in Bonn for a few months the effort of buying and then selling it again might not be worth it. In that case you have different options to rent a bike. You can register with nextbike and rent any of the bikes placed across the city for a single ride (1€ per 30 minutes). Simply download the nextbike app (find closer information on the registration [here](#)) and rent any bike that you find close to you and end the rental at your destination. If you prefer to have your own bike you can rent one with [Swapfiets](#). You pay a monthly fee of around 17€ for your personal bike and also have a repair service included, which means that any damage on your bike will be taken care of by the Swapfiets-team free of charge for you.

4. Events and activities in Bonn

"Something's going on in Bonn!" This slogan is actually valid all year round.

The Federal city of Bonn is on the banks of the Rhine in the German state of North Rhine-Westphalia. The history of the city dates back to Roman times and nowadays several parks as well as protected areas can be found in and around Bonn. The Rheinaue is Bonn's most important leisure park and it lies on the banks of the Rhine and is the city's biggest park intra muros.

It is famously known as the birthplace of Ludwig van Beethoven in 1770 as well as the capital city of West Germany until 1990.

Carnival

The Rhenish Carnival is a really famous and loved event for families as well as for students. As the tradition expects, everyone is in a costume and the cities are full of hustle and bustle. The packed halls at the session carnival, as well as the street carnival with the Rose Monday procession, are the absolute highlights. Rose Monday is actually no holiday, many authorities and businesses remain on that day nevertheless closed.

The Rhine in flames

Every year, on the first Saturday in May, a unique spectacle takes place: Rhine in flames. Hundreds of thousands of spectators come to see the magic of the lights between Linz and Bonn. A huge convoy of ships sets off downstream and are bathed in Bengali lights, fireworks rockets in the night sky and burst loudly to a colourful shower of stars. The final highlight is the pyrotechnical masterpiece, before which a huge party all day long is celebrated. You just have to experience it - especially since there are no entrance costs.

Pützchens Market

At the beginning of September is the next major event of Bonn: Pützchen's market. The small district in the city district of Beuel was a pilgrimage site for young and old in the past and it is now one of the most important fairs in Germany with a turnover of up to one and a half million visitors. Hundreds of rides - from multiple loops to chain carousels - lottery and snack bars, beer stands and wine taverns tempt the flocks. A colourful, shrill, noisy, adventurous world, where not only the little ones have big eyes.

What else?

Of course, that was by no means all. Easter fair in Beuel, Beethovenfest, Museum Mile Festival, German Post-Marathon, Day of United Nations, dance festivals, Schützenfeste and from April to October at every third Saturday of the month the huge Rheinauen flea market - the series could be continued at will.











5. Culture in Bonn

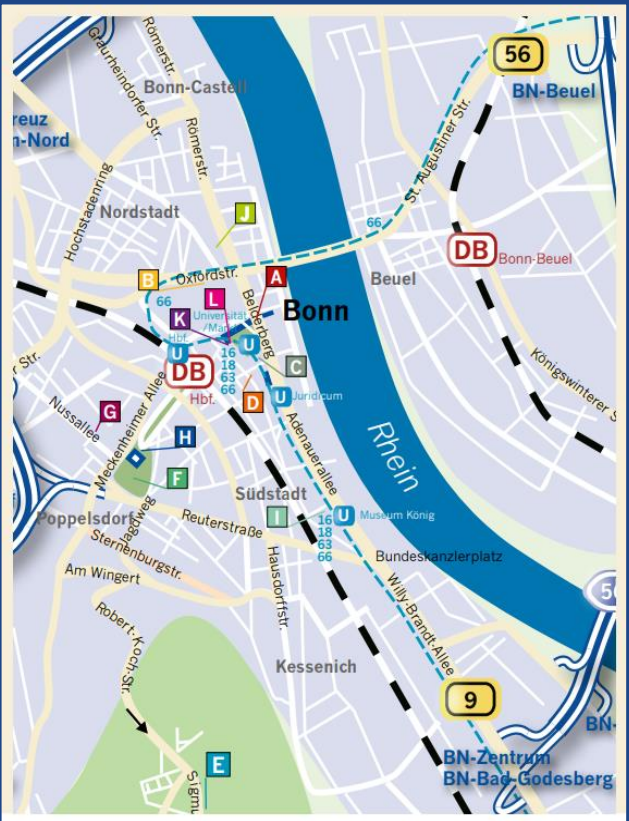
Music and theatre

The travel guide "[Lonely Planet](#)" recently voted Bonn into the 5 of the best travel cities in 2020. As well as the orchestra of the same name of course not only Beethoven plays, you can also enjoy art in Bonn beyond Eroica and Elise: in the Bonn Opera or the Schauspielhaus in Bad Godesberg. In addition, the private theatre and concert scene, from comedy to cabaret, from Blues to Rock pretty much serves every taste.

Museums

Through the permanent and special exhibitions in the city, hundreds of thousands of stories can be told. They follow recordings of selected Bundestag debates, marvel at Adenauer's company car, a pink VW-Bulli from the Flower Power period, household objects and living in the "Economic Miracle", exhibits on the "German Unity construction site", leisure and much more - in short: Germany since 1945.

Egyptian Museum Regina-Pacis-Weg 7 53113 Bonn		Goldfuß Museum Nussallee 8 53115 Bonn	
Old America's Collection Oxfordstraße 15 53111 Bonn		Mineralogy Museum Poppelsdorfer Schloß 53115 Bonn	
Academic Art Museum Am Hofgarten 21 53113 Bonn		Museum Koenig Adenauerallee 160 53113 Bonn	
Arithmeum Lennéstraße 2 53113 Bonn		Gustav-Korkhaus Welschnonnenstraße 17 53111 Bonn	
Botanical Garden Meckenheimer Allee 171 53115 Bonn		University Museum Regina-Pacis-Weg 1 53113 Bonn	



A very-well known area in Bonn is the Museumsmeile. A centre of attraction for art and culture lovers from all over the world. Just to name a few of the institutions:

Bundeskunsthalle (Art and Exhibition Hall)

Helmut-Kohl-Allee 4, 53113 Bonn



Kunstmuseum (Art Museum)

Helmut-Kohl-Allee 2, 53113 Bonn

Haus der Geschichte (German History Museum)

Willy-Brandt-Allee 14, 53113 Bonn

...and many more to visit and discover in your stay in Bonn!

Film

There are various cinemas in Bonn. The WOKI cinema was voted Germany's favourite cinema in 2017 and we can highly recommend visiting it - for the films and also for their famous home-made popcorn! Every Monday evening they show a new film that is about to be launched in the [English SneakPreview](#). You don't know which film it is going to be beforehand, so just buy a ticket for 4,99€ and be surprised!

A highlight in summer is the International Silent Film Festival. Cineasts coming from far away stay for eleven days and organise Germany's largest festival of this type. Famous as well as less famous films from the early days of cinema are presented. Also in summer, the Bundeskunsthalle, shows various films from different genres in their open-air cinema on the roof of the museum! This means that you get to enjoy a beautiful view on the sunset across Bonn and a film at the same time!

Sport

If you are or would like to become a sports fan, find a sports club in Bonn. The city offers more than 100 opportunities to get involved. There are plenty of possibilities: running or skating on the banks of the Rhine as well as cycling on the Rhine promenade and trekking in the Siebengebirge. For those who prefer the water looks like, just take a ride with the Rhine ships.

The University of Bonn itself has a [sports department](#) with a varied and interesting sports offer for everyone. It is available in several sports facilities, which include the university buildings on Römerstraße and Venusberg as well as the boathouse in Beuel. To participate in in-person or online activities, you can purchase a valid semester card (one for each term) and then book the respective course; for some courses, an additional fee applies.

Every year from May until September the city of Bonn also offers "Sport im Park". Every day of the week different workouts (Yoga, Zumba, HIIT, ...) are taking place in various parks in Bonn. You don't need to register or pay, just come along and join! Information (only in German) can be found on the [Website](#) or [Facebook page](#).

Nature and environment

Environmental protection is important to the city of Bonn. In order to protect the health of nature and the environment, there are many measures taken by the city to protect the landscape, water and air pollution control, against environmental noise and adaptation to climate change. In particular, the presence of public transportations is well structured around the city to keep the air quality in the city of Bonn.

If you are looking for a green and quiet spot within the city you can visit the Botanical Garden located next to the Poppelsdorfer Schloss. If you have some more time and would like to enjoy a beautiful walk through nature you should visit the Kottenforst (forest) or hike up the Drachenfels in Königswinter for a stunning view across the city! This is also a great spot to watch the sunset!

Close to Bonn you can find the 'Nationalpark Eifel'. Here you can find rivers, lakes, forest, volcanos, castles and much more. You can go hiking, rent canoes, visit wildlife parks, high rope courses or local history museums. Many parts of the Eifel are under nature protection which makes them very special. Due to the sparse population and the strong focus on nature there's little light pollution in the Eifel National Park. Therefore it is one of few International Dark Sky Parks and you can experience a beautiful night sky. Guided tours are also offered.

Local shops to visit

[Max Kugel](#): Traditional and very delicious German bread, baked by Max himself. Max travelled around the world and got to know many places, bakeries and people who all bake their very own, special breads. Now he bakes them in his very own way and brings the bakery world to Bonn. They sell the same nine breads every day plus a different 'Special One' each day of the week. If you come here make sure you arrive a couple of hours before closing time, they sell out quickly!

[Love your Local Store](#): This lovely shop sells art, postcards, clothes, interior decoration and much more made by artists from the region! That means you will find very special souvenirs with the unique character of Bonn!

[EisLabor](#): One scoop of EisLabor ice cream is a bit more expensive than the usual one but it is definitely worth it! They only use fresh, traditionally produced milk from a regional farm and all their other ingredients are natural as well. Next to the classics like vanilla, chocolate or lemon they also offer like Avocado, Salted Caramel or Lavender. The daily offer of their three stores (Friedrichstraße, Maxstraße, Friedrich-Breuer-Straße) varies every day.

Gastronomy

Visiting Bonn - this also includes a Kölsch in front of the baroque town hall, a cappuccino on the Kaiserplatz or a Rievkoche (potato pancake) at the Christmas market. From the Asian to Cypriot cuisine, the local gastronomy represents a wide range of cultures. In the Multikulti Old Town, in the South Town with their beautiful houses, in Poppelsdorf, at the Endericher culture mile or in Beuel - the sunny side of Bonn - nobody needs a long time to search. And the beer gardens along the Rhine and the classic Hofgarten are well-known meeting places.

On this map you can see our favourite bars and clubs:



6. International activities at the University of Bonn

Certificate of International Competence

The University of Bonn appreciates and supports extracurricular engagement in international and intercultural areas and certifies this with a certificate. The offer is free of charge and available for all students with a student ID from the University of Bonn. The Certificate consists of four different components, three of which must be fulfilled. With your internship in Germany you already fulfill component A (International Experience)!

For the other components you can do a language course, participate in an intercultural training or other intercultural events, listen to lectures with international focus or choose to volunteer in various extracurricular activities.

With your University ID from the University of Bonn you can [register here](#) for the Certificate of International Competence. The following activities are also part of the Certificate.

International Club

The International Club is a meeting place for German and international students and organizes student orientation activities as well as country or quiz/game nights or international dinners. You'll find the information about their events as through the [Facebook page](#) and the newsletter. The Club team is also always looking for international students to help with organizing the events and especially to present their home country.

Language Cafe & Language Tandem

Would you like to improve your language skills while you are staying in Bonn? The department for international students in Bonn regularly hosts a language cafe where you can meet native speakers and language learners of different languages. Check their [Facebook page](#) for the specific dates.

If you prefer to find an individual language partner you can find a [language tandem](#). You can check the published ads or create one yourself!

If you are interested in the German language and would like to participate in a specific language course, there is a wide selection of courses based on proficiency's level offered by the [University of Bonn](#) as well as from [the Volkshochschule \(also VHS\)](#). Special offers and discounts are offered to university students.

7. Trips in and around Bonn

No exchange is complete without a tour of a museum or a 1-day trip, and Bonn is no exception. Here you can find some useful travel guides and websites to discover more about the city and its region.

Several Tours of the city are available in a group as well as on your own:

- Beethoven Tour
- The Path of Democracy

A unique experience is available with [BONN Greeters](#). A Greet involves a local person who volunteers their time to share their love of Bonn with you. In contrast to an official city tour guide who shows you the most important tourist attractions, Greeters show you the city from a local perspective, focusing on the little things that make Bonn home: a neighbourhood, a street corner, a local pub. You will be privy to personal stories and insider tips.

If you are further interested in discover the city of Bonn, you can find a [detailed tourist map available online](#).

If you are searching for an unforgettable happening, a visit to the United Nation in Bonn would be what you are looking for. The United Nations has had offices in Bonn since 1951 and it's currently represented with more than 20 organizations which focus on climate change, biodiversity, health as well as the achievement of the Global Development Goals. Here a Visitor service is offered and groups between 10-25 people have the opportunity to take part in a guided [visit to the UN Campus](#).

If you are looking for adventure, discovery, fun and relaxation, you can find it in [Phantasialand](#). It is an amusement park located in the southwest of the Brühl and represents the second most visited amusement park in Germany. It offers numerous rides as well as shows in six themed areas and ,if you visit it on your birthday, the entrance is free. All you have to do is register online in advance and fill in the birthday form. Phantasialand is easy to reach by train thanks to the convenient connection of the Phantasialand shuttle buses to the KVB stop of line 18 "Brühl Mitte" and the DB station "Brühl (Rheinland)". The return ticket for the shuttle bus costs € 3.00 per person.

For further information you can look up on the following websites:

<https://www.bonn.de/microsite/en/index.php>

www.bonn-region.de/travel-info-service/one-day-in-bonn.html

<https://www.bonn-region.de/en/>

Daytrips/Weekendtrips

Check the IAESTE-Facebook Groups or ask us for information about IAESTE events and weekends going on!

Cities in the region that are worth a visit:

- Aachen
- Cologne
- Düsseldorf
- Koblenz
- Mainz & Wiesbaden

Also, Bonn is very close to the borders of the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxemburg which means that you can easily get to those countries by train!

More information and offers can be found on the [website of the Detusche Bahn](#) (German Train).

8. Useful Contacts

Local Committee's address: Endenicher Allee 11-13, 53115 Bonn

Bonn Touristic Information: Windeckstraße 1, 53111 Bonn (bonninformation@bonn.de)

Townhouse Bonn: Berliner Platz 2, 53111 Bonn

In case of emergency:

- Ambulance 112
- Fire 112
- Police 110

During your stay, your local committee will support you and be in direct contact with you. This is a great opportunity to get to know people from all over the world and experience a deep cultural exchange along your stay abroad.

Interested in the work of an IAESTE local committee?

If you would like to join our organizational meetings during your stay in Bonn you are more than welcome to!

You can get an insight into the work of an international organization and find out out more about how we organize the exchange process, our events & much more...

